Amendment of UGC Act.

6610. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the University Grants Commission has proposed an amendment to the UGC Act, 1956 to administer changes in the fee structure:

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether with the amendment coming into force there will be a sharp increase in fees charged by universities and colleges throughout the country?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION & DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE) (K.M. SELJA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The proposed amendments seek to fix norms and guidelines, for charging tution and other fees as may be specified in the Regulations framed in this behalf.

(c) No, Sir. The proposed amendment is aimed at enabling the UGC to regulate the fee structure in institutions within its purview in the light of the Supreme Court orders by which the Hon'ble Court adjudicated on the issues relating to Capitation Fee being charged by certain institutions.

Women Voluntary Organisations

6611. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of women voluntary organisation functioning at present in the country;

(b) what are the main functions of the aforesaid organisations;

(c) whether the said organisations have been receiving any financial aid from Government:

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) what steps have been taken by Government to strengthen the position of women voluntary organisations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT) (SMT. BASAVA RAJESHWARI (a) and (b) A large number of voluntary organisations are functioning in the country in the field of women's welfare and development. The voluntary organisations receiving financial assistance from the Government work in both advocacy and action modes—influencing and providing inputs for policy making, implementing approved schemes and programmes as per schematic parameters, conducting studies|research, sensitizing and conscientizing society and government to gender concerns, production of media materials etc.

(c) and (d) Some of these organisations are receiving assistance from the Central Government. Details of such aid are not maintained Centrally. However, the Annual Reports of the various Ministries|Departments generally contain details of such major grants. These Annual Reports are circulated to the Hon'ble Members of Parliament and also placed in the Parliament Library. The broad details of assistance given in 1994-95 by the Department of Women and Child Development in major Schemes are given in the Statement (See below).

(e) With a view to promote, develop and assist voluntary organisations which are working in the area of women and child development, financial assistance is given to NGOs by the Government to maintain their Central Offices.

The functioning of Council for Advancement of People Action and Rural Technology (CAPART) has been decentralised by setting up Regional Committees|Regional Centres of CAPART in the